

Request for Information

Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards

I am interested in learning more about volunteering with my local Citizen Foster Care Review Board. Please contact me with more information.

Name _____

Profession _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please return this form to:

Division of Dependent Children's Services
Administrative Office of the Courts
100 Millcreek Park
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-9230
p 502-573-2350, f 502-573-1412
DCS@mail.aoc.state.ky.us

How to Volunteer

An important and meaningful way to invest your time and energy is to advocate for the dependent, neglected and abused children in your community.

If you would like to become a Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteer for your county or would like more information, send in the response form on the previous page or contact:

Division of Dependent Children's Services
800-928-2350
DCS@mail.aoc.state.ky.us



Division of Dependent Children's Services
Department of Juvenile Services
Administrative Office of the Courts
100 Millcreek Park, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
502-573-2350 or 800-928-2350
www.kycourts.net

Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards



Working for Kentucky's Future ... Our Children

Ensuring our Children's Future

Helping Kentucky's foster children find safe and permanent homes is the focus of the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board. CFCRB volunteers play a key role in ensuring that permanency for at-risk children remains the central objective of the courts and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.



Each of the state's review boards regularly reviews the case files of abused, neglected and dependent children who are in the care, custody and control of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

The boards operate within the Division of Dependent Children's Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts in Frankfort. The AOC is the support arm of the Kentucky Court of Justice.

Volunteer Review Boards

Kentucky has the largest volunteer-based citizen review system in the nation.

Review boards are located in all 120 counties and are supported by a volunteer base of more than 800 dedicated people from throughout Kentucky. Each year volunteers conduct approximately 21,000 reviews of 8,000 children who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care, in child-care facilities or with relatives.

The Kentucky General Assembly created the Citizen Foster Care Review Board in 1982 as a way to decrease the time children spend in foster care. The volunteer reviewers help see that children receive the necessary services while in foster care and are ultimately placed in safe and permanent homes.



Appointing & Training Volunteers

All volunteers must complete a six-hour initial training session and consent to a criminal record and central registry check. A recommendation is then made to the chief judge of the local District Court or Family Court for appointment. Judges appoint volunteers for three-year terms.

The regional training sessions provide orientation in the following categories:

- ✓ Department of Community Based Services procedures
- ✓ Forms used in abuse, neglect and dependency cases
- ✓ Court process
- ✓ Mental health issues of children in out-of-home care
- ✓ Mock file review

All volunteers receive a comprehensive handbook on the program and a variety of opportunities for continuing education.

Review Board Meetings

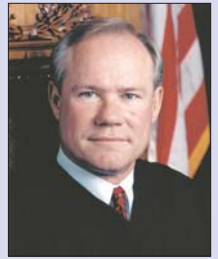
The review boards usually meet once a month for approximately two hours. Each board consists of at least three members, with some boards having as many as 12 members.

Volunteers at Work

CFCRB volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds, but they have in common a deep compassion for children. The volunteers range in age from 20 to 80. Their educational backgrounds vary as well, with some having graduated from high school, some from college and some holding doctoral degrees. Of the volunteers, 82.6 percent are female, 92.5 percent are Caucasian and 6.6 percent are African American.

Active volunteers have served for an average of 4.9 years. Forty-three percent of volunteers have served for five years or more and 12.5 percent have served for 10 years or more. Review boards held 1,004 review meetings in fiscal year 2003.

Message From the Chief Justice



Every year thousands of children enter Kentucky's foster care system as a result of abuse, neglect and dependency. Citizen Foster Care Review Boards play an important role in protecting these children by reviewing the case of each child in the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services at least once every six months.

As a result of this major undertaking, review boards provide an invaluable service to Family, Circuit and District Court judges throughout the Commonwealth. But even more importantly, Citizen Foster Care Review Boards guard the safety and well-being of the 8,000 children in foster care in Kentucky. We extend our gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who commit their time and energy to this important endeavor.

*Joseph E. Lambert
Chief Justice of Kentucky*

